

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) is a category of death in children between the ages of 1 and 18 that remains unexplained after a thorough investigation, including an autopsy; and

WHEREAS: Each year, there are approximately 400 cases of SUDC in the United States between the ages of 1 and 18 – including more than 200 children between the ages of one and four – who die without any clear cause or explanation; and

WHEREAS: While less common than Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), which occurs before the first birthday, SUDC is an important health concern deserving of increased public awareness and research; and

WHEREAS: SUDC is the 5th leading category of death among children ages one to four in the United States, and at the present time, there is no way to prevent SUDC as its cause(s) is/are unknown. It is hoped that future research will identify means by which SUDC can be prevented; and

WHEREAS: We recognize the dedicated efforts of organizations, medical professionals, and volunteers that are working to better understand the causes of sudden unexplained death, improve the health of infants and children, and provide much needed hope and support for those families grieving the heartbreaking sudden unexplained death of a child; and

WHEREAS: Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood Awareness Month provides an opportunity to honor the memory of the young lives that ended too soon, show encouragement and support for the families and loved ones forever devastated by their loss, and increase public awareness of SUDC and the ongoing search for answers;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim March 2021, as

SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD AWARENESS MONTH

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 24th day of February, in the year of our Lord 2021.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:

John Thurston, Secretary of State